

Use caution when taking on the king of Utah peaks

By Lynn Arave
Deseret News staff writer

HIGH UINTAS — You're not *king* of the hill in Utah until you've climbed the state's tallest mountain — Kings Peak (13,528 feet above sea level) — where you stand 9,268 feet (almost 1.8 miles) higher than Salt Lake's Temple Square in Utah's *thinnest* air (about 40 percent less oxygen than at sea level).

To set the record straight, this peak was not named on the basis of its premier height. Its namesake was Clarence King, director of the first U.S. Geological Survey team that came through Utah in 1867-71.

Ironically, King himself was never aware of Utah's tallest point since it went undiscovered until 24 years ago. Initial measurements erroneously pegged South Kings peak (about one-half mile south of today's Kings Peak) as Utah's tallest, at only 13,498 feet.

Revised measurements in 1966 using improved technology not only found North Kings Peak (previously unnamed) to be Utah's tallest, but also revised the height of the original Kings Peak to be 14 feet taller — 13,512, solidifying its claim as Utah's second-highest.

Kings Peak is not easy to identify in 1990 either. It has no dominant features and looks drab in comparison to other nearby peaks. Also, since there are 24 other peaks over 13,000 feet in the Uintas (only nine of which are named), Kings Peak blends in.

On top of Kings Peak, a metal plaque describes its namesake. There is also a small pile of rocks, and the peak itself is nothing more than stacked rock slabs. From the top, the view is breathtaking, and even the Wasatch Mountains are visible to the west. (Salt Lake City is almost straight west of Kings Peak, about 88 miles away.)

Late July/August is the most ideal period to hike Utah's tallest peak since the snow usually is gone by then. On a typical August day, as many as 40 climbers may conquer Kings Peak. September also can be a pleasant time, but the nights are much cooler.

Three days is the minimum time possible for a round-trip visit to Kings Peak, and that's rushing it. Four to five days would be more comfortable.

How tough is the Kings Peak hike? It ranks as one of the toughest hiking climbs in Utah. It's a trek from the



Kings Peak, with its no-frills appearance, is pictured here from just below Anderson Pass.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ LYNN ARAVE

Wyoming 410. Travel 14 miles south to Mountain View. It's 10 more paved miles until the last 22 miles of gravel road (OK for car travel) to Henry's Fork (9,600-foot elevation). Total mileage from Salt Lake City to the trailhead is about 165 miles, or 3½ hours.

Water is available at a spring to the east of Dollar Lake, Schuler said. He reported all the area's trails in good condition and said that camping spots are available throughout Henry's Fork. Other popular lakes in the area include Bear Lake and Henry's Fork Lake. Mosquitoes are plentiful in the area.

(Note: Since one key hiking sign in the middle of Painter Basin has confusing directions, be sure *not* to miss the right turn or you may end up traveling three miles out of the way to Trail Rider Pass.)

The other, more *daring* option to reach Kings Peak is a shortcut up a rock-slide slope, located about one-half mile to the right (west) of Gunsight Pass. (Kings Peak is the mountain that peeks through the top of this opening and looks like a sinking ship.)

This makeshift, three-mile route is very popular because it saves about two hours — one-way travel time — to Anderson Pass. But it's also very dangerous with a steep 1,300-foot climb up loose material.

From Anderson Pass, there's no sign pointing to Kings, but it is the nearest peak (southeast direction). The final half-mile (828-foot altitude gain) is a mountain climb, not a hike (since it requires the use of your hands, too). This section travels upward, across a string of 100 percent rock slabs (some of which are loose) along an unmarkable path.

Climbers should be cautious of their footing because one slip could mean a gash in the leg or arm. Also be aware of incoming storms since lightning danger is severe on the top of Kings Peak (wet rocks would also be slippery). Winds are usually fierce from Anderson Pass upward.

Several narrow points along the way provide breathtaking views with dizzying backdrops to the basins below. It takes as much time to climb back down to Anderson Pass as it does to go up to Kings Peak because of the rugged, uneven terrain.

Horses are very popular in the Henry's Fork area and could make it to Anderson Pass via Painter Basin, but could not travel up the rock slide shortcut nor the final assault up Kings Peak. Taking dogs to Kings Peak is not wise because of the many sharp rocks and cliffs. Motorized vehicles or mountain bicycles are prohibited in the High Uintas Primitive area.

Mild altitude sickness is a possible problem for some hikers, even physically fit individuals, when hiking/camping at 10,000-foot plus altitudes. Headache, nausea, breathing difficulties and sleep disruption are the most common symptoms of this illness. People coming up from very low elevations are especially vulnerable. Don't hike Kings Peak if you feel you have altitude sickness.

Scoreboard

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Baseball

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Boston	63	53	.543	—	5-5	Lost 1	36-18	27-35	
Toronto	62	56	.525	2	5-5	Lost 1	32-29	30-27	
Baltimore	56	60	.483	7	3-7	Lost 2	26-26	30-34	
Cleveland	55	62	.470	8½	6-4	Won 1	31-29	24-33	
Detroit	54	65	.454	10½	3-7	Lost 2	26-32	28-33	
Milwaukee	50	65	.435	12½	5-5	Won 2	24-32	26-33	
New York	46	70	.397	17	2-6	Lost 6	23-29	23-41	

West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Oakland	75	43	.636	—	2-8	Won 1	40-22	35-21	
Chicago	67	47	.588	6	4-6	Won 1	34-26	33-21	
Texas	60	57	.513	14½	2-4	Won 1	31-24	29-33	
Seattle	60	58	.508	15	2-4	Won 2	32-33	28-25	
California	58	60	.492	17	6-4	Won 3	32-30	26-30	
Kansas City	57	60	.487	17½	7-3	Lost 1	34-28	23-32	
Minnesota	55	62	.470	19½	4-6	Lost 1	29-30	26-32	

NATIONAL LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Pittsburgh	66	49	.574	—	2-4	Lost 1	33-23	33-26	
New York	65	49	.570	½	4-6	Lost 2	39-22	26-27	
Montreal	62	54	.534	4½	7-3	Won 7	33-23	29-31	
Chicago	56	61	.479	11	2-6	Lost 1	29-31	27-30	
Philadelphia	54	60	.474	11½	3-7	Won 2	28-28	26-32	
St. Louis	54	63	.462	13	2-6	Lost 2	27-34	27-29	

West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Cincinnati	50	67	.430	—	—	—	—	—	

Athletics 6, Red Sox 2									
BOSTON					OAKLAND				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
JoReed 2b	4	0	1	0	Lansford 3b	4	0	0	0
Quintan 1b	4	0	2	2	Jennings lf	4	1	0	0
Boggs 3b	5	0	2	0	DHdn cf	4	1	0	0
Burks cf	5	0	0	0	McGwire 1b	4	1	1	4
Greenwl lf	4	0	0	0	Hassey dh	3	0	1	0
Evans dh	4	1	1	0	Bikosp dh	1	1	0	0
Brmsky rf	4	0	1	0	Jose rf	4	1	2	1
Marzano c	4	0	1	0	Steinboch c	4	0	0	0
Rivera ss	3	1	0	0	Weiss ss	4	0	1	1
					Gallego 2b	2	0	0	0
					RHdn ph	0	0	0	0
					Rndloph pr	0	1	0	0
Totals	37	2	8	2	Totals	34	6	5	6

Braves 8, Pirates 1									
ATLANTA					PITTSBURGH				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
LoSmith lf	4	0	2	2	Cangelos cf	4	0	1	0
Tredwy 2b	4	0	1	0	JBell ss	4	0	0	0
Gant cf	3	0	0	0	Landrm p	0	0	0	0
Presley 3b	5	0	0	0	Redus 1b	2	0	0	0
Lemke 3b	0	0	0	0	Bream 1b	2	0	0	0
Cabrer 1b	3	1	1	1	Bonilla rf	3	0	1	0
MBell 1b	2	1	1	0	Bonds lf	4	0	1	0
Blauser ss	4	2	2	0	King 3b	3	0	0	0
Justice rf	5	1	3	3	Slaughter c	2	1	1	0
Olson c	5	2	2	0	Lind 2b	3	0	0	0
Castillo p	1	0	1	0	Heaton p	2	0	0	0
Gregg ph	1	0	1	1	Bair p	0	0	0	0
Parrett p	0	0	0	0	Ross p	0	0	0	0
QMcDill ph	1	1	1	0	Bellard ss	1	0	0	0
Mercker p	0	0	0	0	Totals	38	8	15	7
Totals	38	8	15	7	Totals	30	1	4	0

Angels 8, Yankees 1									
NEW YORK					CALIFORNIA				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Kelly cf	3	1	1	0	Dwning dh	4	3	4	3
Sax 2b	3	0	0	0	DHill 2b	4	1	2	0
Azocar lf	4	0	1	0	CDavis lf	4	1	1	2
Balboni dh	4	0	0	0	Bichette rf	1	0	0	0
JeBrld rf	3	0	0	0	Winfield rf	3	0	2	3
Maas 1b	3	0	0	1	Venable lf	3	0	0	0

Dodgers 3, Mets 2									
LOS ANGELES					NEW YORK				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Javier cf	4	1	1	0	Boston cf	4	2	2	0
Shorps 3b	3	1	1	0	Magadan 3b	2	0	1	1
LHarris 3b	1	0	0	0	Jeffers 2b	4	0	1	1
Daniels lf	4	1	1	3	Stubbs rf	4	0	0	0

Phillies 6, Giants 0									
SANFRAN					PHILA				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Parker cf	3	0	0	0	Dykstra cf	4	1	1	1
Andrsn 2b	3	0	0	0	Daulton c	3	2	1	2
Downs p	0	0	0	0	VHayes lf	2	0	0	0
WClark 1b	3	0	0	0	Murphy rf	4	0	0	0
Mitchell lf	3	0	0	0	Kruk 1b	4	1	2	1
MWlms 3b	3	0	0	0	Herr 2b	3	1	1	0
Lifton rf	3	0	0	0	CHayes 3b	4	0	1	1
Kennedy c	2	0	0	0	Thon ss	4	1	1	0
Bahe ph	1	0	0	0	Muhlnid p	3	0	1	1
Uribe ss	3	0	0	0					
Robins p	2	0	0	0					
Kingery cf	0	0	0	0					
GCartr ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	27	0	0	0	Totals	31	6	8	6

San Francisco 0, Philadelphia 1									
SAN FRANCISCO					PHILADELPHIA				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Robinson L, 8-4	6	7	6	6	4	3			
Downs	2	1	0	0	0	0			
Philadelphi	9	0	0	0	0	8			
Mulholland W, 7-6	9	0	0	0	0	8			
Umpires—Home, Grego; First, Crawford; Second, Hallion; Third, DeMuth; T—2:09. A—32,156.									

PIONEER LEAGUE STANDINGS									
Northern Division					Southern Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Great Falls	38	17	.691	—	Butte	32	21	.604	—
Billings	27	26	.509	10	Salt Lake	32	23	.582	1
Helena	24	27	.471	12	Idaho Falls	29	25	.537	3½
Medicine Hat	20	32	.385	16½	Gate City	12	43	.218	21

NFL PRESEASON STANDINGS									
AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	17	6			
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	6	20			
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	7	16			
Miami	0	1	0	.000	6	10			
New England	0	1	0	.000	14	24			

at the trailhead on a typical weekday, he said. Rick Schuler, recreation forestry technician at the Mount's Fork trail at Elkhorn crossing. er, slightly longer trailhead option. It connects with the Hen- available at the trailhead.) Nearby China Meadows is an out- Great Falls 3, Medicine Hat 1

On TV, radio

THURSDAY TV	
1:00 p.m.	(TBS) BASEBALL Braves at Pirates
3:00 p.m.	(ESPN) GOLF The International, First Round
5:30 p.m.	(ESPN) BOWLING LaMode Classic
7:00 p.m.	(ESPN) BOXING Steve Collins vs. Fermin Chirino
10:35 p.m.	(2) GOLF Senior PGA Showdown Classic Preview, from The Jeremy Ranch Golf Club, Park City, Utah (Taped)
EARLY FRIDAY TV	
Noon	(PSN) APSL SOCCER Colorado Foxes vs. Salt Lake City Sting (Taped)
12:05 p.m.	(TBS) BASEBALL Braves at Cubs
12:15 p.m.	(WGN) BASEBALL Braves at Cubs
3:00 p.m.	(ESPN) GOLF The International, Second Round
THURSDAY RADIO	
11:15 a.m.	(KNKK AM-800) BASEBALL Dodgers at Mets
5 p.m.	(KISN AM-57) SPORTS TALK
6:30 p.m.	(KSL AM-1160) KSL SPORTSCENTRAL
7 p.m.	(KISN AM-57) BASEBALL Trappers host Pocatello

Track and field

1990 WELTKLASSE INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX TRACK MEET									
At Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 15									
Women									
100 meters	—	1, Merlene Ottey, Jamaica, 10.93	2, Katrin Krabbe, East Germany, 11.10	3, Evelyn Ashford, U.S., 11.21	4, Michele Finn, United States, 11.31	5, Mary Onyiah, Nigeria, 11.32	6, Laurence Bily, France, and Pauline Davis, Bahamas, 11.33	8, Sheila Echols, United States, 11.47	
400m	—	1, Butch Reynolds, U.S., 44.22	2, Danny Everett, U.S., 44.40	3, (Tied) Andrew Valmon, U.S. and Roberto Hernandez, Cuba, 44.43	5, Roger Black, Britain, 45.05	6, Bert Cameron, Jamaica, 45.23	800m	—	1, Nixon Kiprotich, Kenya, 1:44.61
800m	—	1, Nixon Kiprotich, Kenya, 1:44.61	2, William Tanui, Kenya, 1:44.71	3, Reda Abdel-Salam, Egypt, 1:45.11					

Wyoming on I-80, continuing 32 miles past Evanston to To reach Henry's Fork trailhead from Salt Lake, go to the shortest and most popular route is from Henry's Fork. "There are many starting points to Utah's tallest point, but the shortest and most popular route is from Henry's Fork. "Climbing Kings Peak: hikers or a Boy Scout troop. wouldn't want to be responsible for the safety of young of potentially hazardous hike where a wise person fittest and most determined of individuals and is the kind the toughest hiking trails.

on July 30-Aug. 1. ■ Lynn Arave and Wayne Arave hiked to Kings Peak cern of hikers. Since the nearest telephone from Kings Peak is more than 30 miles away, safety should always be a prime concern at lower elevations. and extra water (a minimum of five quarts is a person per day) may also help. Altitude sickness will completely disappear